# CALPEEK

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**CAMPAIGN '98: THE BATTLE FOR CA TREASURER.**
Editor's note: With current GOP Treasurer Matt Fong stepping down after only one term to run for the U.S. Senate, this OPEN seat promises to be one of the hotter Statewide races in 1998. Here's our first update & analysis...

...There's little doubt that the late Jess Unruh(D) is the politician most responsible for making the office of State Treasurer what it is today: a potentially powerful office, with the elected treasurer able to command the respect of Wall Street and the world. When Unruh died shortly after winning a 4th term in 1986, Liz Whitney served as acting treasurer until Tom Hayes(R) won confirmation to the post in 1989. But Hayes was defeated in 1990 by Kathleen Brown(D), who like Fong, abandoned the office after only one term. So at least in Calif.'s recent history, the office has been used as a stepping stone up the political ladder...

...The field for 1998 is already partly set, but not necessarily in cement. Sacto businessman and former CA Demo Party chair Phil Angelides (who guided Demos to a big win in '92) wants another shot at this job. For those with short memories, Angelides was defeated by Fong in 1994 by a margin of 480,000 votes. **Calpeek** sources speculate that a large hunk of those votes for Fong came from Demos who were still furious at Angelides for his primary campaign against rival David Roberti, the former Demo senate leader who was blasted in Angelides tv-attack ads for being pro-life. Question: have those Demos who abandoned Angelides for Fong in '94 forgiven him???

...On the GOP side, the likely candidate will be new State Sen. Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga, the guy who in 1994 engineered the GOP takeover of the CA Assembly, but never became Speaker. Brulte has been in public service most of his adult life and was first elected to the Assembly in 1990. Brulte is a traditional conservative, more interested in *fiscal issues* than social ones. He's pro-life, but that's not what drives him...

...Both Brulte and Angelides have a lot more in common than one might expect: **1)** both are great fundraisers (Angelides has a warchest for '98 of $616,000. Brulte's warchest is $502,000); **2)** both are very savvy when it comes to politics & campaigns; and **3)** both are very pro-business...

...FYI: there is a slight/outside chance that neither may end up running for Treasurer. Angelides might have a better shot at LG or Controller (if Connell doesn't seek reelection), while sources say that pressure is beginning to build on Brulte to abandon his statewide ambitions in order to help orchestrate a GOP takeover of the CA State Senate in '98. But one thing is clear: if it's Brulte vs. Angelides in '98, the contest will be both interesting and expensive. Stay tuned...

**PART 11: THE 49ers GET BAD NEWS FROM AL DAVIS.**
Editor's note: This week in Part XI of our continuing series on ***public funding of sports facilities***, we'll focus on the recent brouhaha over the deal that returned the NFL's Raiders to Oakland and how this is impacting the other Bay area team, the S.F. 49ers...

...The *Stop the $100 Million Give Away Cmt.*, the key group opposing the 49ers & S.F.'s deal to build a new $535 million football stadium and huge shopping mall in the Hunter's Point area, has been all smiles ever since the *S.F. Chronicle* broke two stories about the deal that returned the Raiders to Oakland...

...One front-page story on **April 22nd** noted that Oakland City and Alameda County officials are trying to get Raiders owner Al Davis to renegotiate their agreement because anticipated revenues from the sale of personal


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seat licenses (a more complex & costly form of season tickets) aren't matching expenses connected to the expansion of Oakland/Alameda Co. Stadium. According to this story, city & county treasuries may be hit to the tune of $4 million each in '97. The *timing* of this story is definitely ***bad news*** for the 49ers...

...Why are opponents of the S.F. 49ers' deal pleased about this news? Because any news which sheds a negative light on ***public funding of sports facilities*** helps the opponents. The payback on S.F. city's $100 million in proposed revenue bonds (set for a vote on June 3rd in the form of Measures D & F) to assist the 49ers with this huge development hinges on the success of the shopping mall. If the shopping mall isn't a success, city taxpayers *could* get stuck...

...To blunt criticism, tie up loose ends and ease voter concerns, S.F. Mayor Willie Brown & the 49ers were supposed to announce a new written agreement nailing down exact obligations by the NFL team, this according to the *S.F. Chron's* Matier & Ross in the **April 28th** edition of the paper. Exact terms of the agreement were announced after **Calpeek's** deadline...

...The second front-page story in the Chron on **April 25th** outlines the deal that the City of Oakland and Alameda County gave to Davis. It was **$70 million** up front, most of it in the form of 2 tax-free loans. The details of the agreement was disclosed in grand jury documents. City & county officials say the agreement is not excessive, given what other cities have paid to get NFL teams. But the amount of money given to Davis just reinforces the belief that these wealthy sports owners are benefiting at taxpayer expense...

...FYI: Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante(D) has named the following to the **Assembly Select Cmt. on Professional Sports**: Don Perata(D-Oakland), chair; Carole Migden(D-S.F.); Debra Ortiz(D-Sacto); Mike Honda(D-San Jose); Ed Vincent(D-Inglewood); Bill Campbell(R-Orange Co.); Howard Wayne(D-San Diego); and Roy Ashburn(R-Bakersfield). With the exception of Wayne, all are former local elected officials. Stay tuned...

**FULL METAL JACKET: GUN BILLS WHICH HAVE A SHOT TO WIN PASSAGE IN LEGISLATURE IN 1997.**

Editor's note: Over the past few weeks the Assembly's Public Safety Cmt. has considered a number of firearms related bills. **Calpeek** sources believe at least 7-9 bills which have already passed this first legislative test have a shot at winning full CA Legislative approval this year. Here is our brief update...

...When the GOP controlled the Assembly in the last session, it was pretty tough to get a strong gun-control bill out of the Public Safety Cmt. But this year under new Demo chair Bob Hertzberg of No. Hollywood, those who advocate strong laws on guns have had little trouble getting their bills past this first important policy committee. This is not to say that the committee has been all one-sided. A number of bills backed by the powerful gun lobby (AB 78 & 79 by GOPer Brett Granlund) also have won approval. Here's a brief summary of the other key gun/crime bills...

♦ ***Big Ticket Bills*** - AB 786 by Mike Machado(D-Stockton) appropriates $25 million for programs to train DAs and cops about existing gun laws; and AB 920 by Susan Davis(D-San Diego) and Bob Prenter (R-Fresno) appropriates $21 million to upgrade & improve crime labs in Calif. Sources say the NRA regards AB 920 as the major crime bill of the session...

♦ ***High Profile Bill*** - AB 23 by Don Perata(D-Oakland) is the *first major revision* of the State's Assault Weapons Law (Roberti/Roos). This bill continues to ban 58 weapons under Roberti/Roos, but uses a generic definition to ban other weapons because courts are now tossing out laws based upon brand names, such as AK-47 or AR-15. In helping Perata draft this new bill, legislative gun gurus Irwin Nowick and Bill Cavala drew upon gun laws from New Jersey, Michigan and Canada. The focus of this proposal is on the barrel & overall length of semi-automatic weapons that accept clips. AB 23 also greatly increases penalties for using assault weapons and machineguns in crimes. Assault weapons are a key issue with swing voters...

♦ ***Other Bills*** - AB 304 by Jack Scott(D-Pasadena) increases the penalty for illegally carrying unregistered handguns...AB 532 by Wally Knox(D-West L.A.) limits handgun purchases from licensed gun dealers to 1 per person in a 30-day period...AB 675 by Majority Leader

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Antonio Villariagosa(D-East L.A.) makes it a specific crime to be in possession of a handgun while intoxicated...AB 991 by Kevin Shelley(D-S.F.) and Perata (drafted/sponsored by Nowick & Cavala) requires persons moving into Calif. to register their handguns. AB 991 is a parity measure, as persons who acquire handguns in Calif. have to register their weapons...

♦ ***Gun Bills In Trouble*** - AB 488 by Louis Caldera(D-L.A.) to ban *Saturday Night Specials* (if anything happens on SNSs, it will be in SB 500 by L.A. Demo Sen. Richard Polanco); and AB 136 by Villariagosa and AB 247 by Scott - both deal with giving *local government* the ability pass laws regulating the sale of firearms. All these bills received Public Safety Cmt. approval, but sources think it's *doubtful* they will pass on the Assembly floor. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN '98: ODDS & ENDS FROM AROUND CALIF.**
Editor's note: Here are some briefs about Campaign '98 that are worth noting...

☒ ***GOP U.S. Senate Race*** - Conservative San Diego Co. businessman Darrell Issa has pumped in $2 million of his own funds to help get the ball rolling on his campaign. Handling media relations for Issa will be Matt Cunningham, former deputy press secretary to GOP Assembly Leader Curt Pringle. Issa also has opened an HQ inVista, CA. ☎(760)414-1998...

...Headlines about *China Funds* from across the State in the past few weeks have not been especially helpful to Calif. Treasurer Matt Fong's bid for the U.S. Senate, but sources think his ***damage control*** in handling this issue has been very good. On April 22nd Fong returned $100,000 in campaign contributions because of reports in the news media that the money may have originated in the PRC. Fong gave Indonesian businessman Ted Sioeng and Panda Estates Investments 24 hours to respond to his inquiry. When he didn't hear from him, he returned the money and fully answered news media questions...

☒ ***Demo Governor's Primary*** - On April 16th, Demo businessman Al Checchi visited Sacto and met with the Capitol Press Corps. It was his 2nd or 3rd major political outing since his maiden Town Hall speech. It was at this meeting with the news media where Checchi said he was edging closer to running for governor in '98. Then on April 25th, Checchi resigned as co-chair of Northwest Airlines. What does that tell you? Checchi is an *all but declared candidate*, but he still needs lots of seasoning. He's not giving smooth responses to questions. And he made what some **Calpeek** sources describe as several major *screw-ups* in Sacto: **1)** A name Checchi should *never mention again* at any time: Michael Huffington; **2)** He needs to get the facts straight on his voting record; **3)** He should stop trying to play *Mr. Tough Guy*. Bashing U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein isn't smart (suppose she doesn't run; wouldn't it be nice to have her endorsement?). FYI: The S.F. Chron's Robert Gunnison's April 27th story about Checchi is **not** the kind of article Checchi needs. It wasn't a hatchet job, but it was *fairly negative*. Stay tuned...

**SPRING '97 ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS.**
Editor's note: Here is part XII of **Calpeek's** continuing coverage of city & county Spring elections...

☒ ***Hospital Merger Wins*** - The YES side in the Eden Hospital District election in Alameda Co. won by a 55% vs. 45% margin, with 38% of all voters casting mail ballots only. The election results were totaled on April 22nd. A nice win for SF consultant John Whitehurst...

☒ ***L.A. Co. Fire Protection*** - Voters in 48 cities within L.A. Co., as well as voters in all unincorporated county territory, will be voting on Measure E on the June 3rd ballot. Measure E deals with the L.A. County Consolidated Fire District, which is funded by a *special benefit assessment* which has been around since 1991. Because of Prop. 218, voters in the 48 cities + other county territory will be asked to replace the special assessment district with a tax - which must get a 2/3rds vote to win approval. If "E" fails, the county will have to slice $51.7 million in fire & paramedical services from the various cities. Supporters of "E" have formed *Homeowners, Business, L.A. Co. Firefighters & Paramedics to Preserve and Protect Paramedic and Firefighter Services.* The support committee has retained The Kamber Group to run the YES campaign. The 48 cities impacted are both large and small and are scattered throughout the county. Stay tuned...

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**KUEHL TO ADDRESS WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.**
Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Sheila Kuehl(D-Santa Monica) will address members of Women In Public Affairs(WIPA), 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, May 16, Hotel Inter-Continental in L.A. For info & RSVPs, ☎Cynthia Munar (213)891-2822...

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***O.C.'s Other Voter Fraud Case*** - The voter fraud trial against GOP political operative Rhonda Carmony arising out of the 67th AD recall of Doris Allen(R) in '95 gets underway May 5th. This trial could be very bad news not only for Carmony, but for other O.C. GOPers as well, including Republican Assembly Leader Curt Pringle, Assemblyman Scott Baugh (who also faces a trial in connection with the '95 recall) and top Pringle staffer Jeff Flint, an unindicted conspirator in this case. Sources expect numerous ***bomb shells*** to be dropped, not only by the prosecution, but by the defense as well. And there's some speculation that the defense may claim Carmony was **framed**...

■ ***Another Lawsuit Against 208*** - There are now five(5) lawsuits against the Campaign Reform Law, Prop. 208. The latest suit was filed by campaign consultants Allan Hoffenblum(R)and Larry Levine(D), two of the major slate card vendors in Calif. They are suing to overturn those sections of 208 which deal with slate cards. Attorneys for Hoffenblum & Levine are James Lacy in Laguna Niguel and Daniel Lowenstein in L.A...

■ ***L.A. Times Endorsement Slate*** - One of the odd things that happened in the April 8th L.A. City election was the omission of 2 names from the L.A. Times' list of endorsed Charter Reform Commission candidates. The slate of endorsed candidates (which appeared in the paper on election day) omitted the names of 3rd District candidate Gary Thomas and 15th District candidate Jerry Gaines. Both had been endorsed by the LAT. Gaines just made a runoff with Janice Hahn, but Thomas lost to Dennis Zine. Now some supporters of Thomas & Gaines want to know whether the omission was just a *bad mistake* or something more sinister...

**NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● For the record, the Hollywood Women's Political Cmt. has ceased operation. The PAC was founded in '84. A very influential PAC in Calif. and U.S. politics...

● Jean Pasco, longtime political writer with the O.C. Register, jumps to the L.A. Times/O.C...

● Heading home to L.A.: former White House press secretary and CNBC *Equal Time* co-host Dee Dee Myers. Nothing specific about future plans...

● New Calif. Demo Party officers are: Art Torres, chair; Alicia Wang, 1st vice chair; Ms. Alex Rookers, 2nd vice chair; Antonio Salazar Hobson, controller; and Jim Clark, secretary...

● IPRA Golden Award for excellence to Edelman PR Worldwide(Sacto office) for its media relations work on the NO on 211 campaign in '96...

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